

MEETING OF COUNCIL

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 20th June 1983 commencing 4 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

In attendance:

Mr. R. Harper vice Mr. A. Gill
Mr. B. Greer Business Adviser, Employment Co-operative
Development Programme

Apologies for non-attendance received from:

Mr. A. Dash
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. J. Rigby
Mr. O. J. Slattery

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 16th May 1983 were received. Subject to the following corrections at para 7.i.ii the minutes were confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

Para 7.i.ii line 9 delete the words "Evaluation Study Team" and
line 15 substitute the words "Evaluation Study Committee"
delete the words "funded Co-operatives" and
substitute the words "Work Co-operatives"

Moved: Mr. Mitchell
Seconded: Mr. Simm

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Minute 6.iii. Funding from Employment Initiatives Programme

Application for funding has been deferred pending clarification of the future of the role of the Federation in Employment Co-operative Development Programme.

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1983 commencing 4 p.m.

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3.ii Minute 9. Research

Mr. Gary Lewis spent the week commencing 13th June in Victoria meeting Co-operative pioneers and leaders in a programme organised by the Federation.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.i From Mr. Gill - resignation as member of Council and Director, Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. on the cessation of his duties with the Ballarat Employment Co-operative.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting agreed to consider appointment of a successor to Mr. Gill at the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Harper, Manager, Hodja Resources Co-operative accepted nomination for the appointment.

- 4.ii From C.F.A. - message from I.C.A. re 61st International Day, July 2nd, 1983.

- 4.iii From Federation of Housing Co-operative Ltd., Malaysia - re visit of representatives in October 1983.

Correspondence received and action confirmed on

Motion of Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Simm

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Income and Expenditure in respect of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria including funds supplied by Government for the Employment Co-operative Development Programme for the period 1.7.82 to 31.5.83 and an Estimated Balance Sheet as at 31.5.83 were presented, discussed, received on the

Motion of Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Simm

6. 1983 CONFERENCE

Brochures of Conference programme have been printed and distributed to member Co-operatives.

Council agreed

- (i) Time should be provided for a brief introduction of

Mr. W. Kilpatrick, Registrar of Co-operative Societies following the official opening address.

- (ii) Follow-up promotional hand out should be printed and distributed to directors, to media (printed and electronic).

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- (iii) Council members to contact selected Co-operatives to personally promote the Conference programme.
- (iv) Members to be advised registration fees are in respect of the Conference only and attendance at Annual General Meeting only is on a no cost basis.

7. FEDERATION STAFF

(i) Administrative Assistant, Employment Co-operative Development Programme

Mr. Rawlinson reported on the appointment, performance of duty, leave, absences and current correspondence from the Administrative Assistant's legal advisers. Mrs. Sarlin has not been present in the office since 20th May 1983.

Council noted the excess amount of paid sick leave granted to Mrs. Sarlin and in view of the current employee/employer relationship which has developed directed that the Federation's legal adviser be instructed to issue notice of termination of her employment with the Federation. Such notice to include one month's salary in lieu of working notice plus payment for balance of recreational annual leave due.

Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Long

Council directed legal costs incurred be charged to wage costs of the Co-operative Development Programme.

Council agreed the Legislation Committee should be advised of all developments in this matter as they occur.

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with the Deputy Director, Ministry Employment and Training, when advice was given that the Ministry accepted this matter as an internal dispute but continued funding of the Federation's part in the Programme is conditional upon the matter being resolved to enable the Federation to continue normal performance of the required duties.

Council resolved

a letter of understanding of the agreement of the meeting between Dr. Edgar and Mr. Black be issued by the Federation.

(ii) Executive Officer

Terms of appointment in respect of Mr. Rawlinson, drawn up by the Chairman and Vice President, were presented to the meeting, agreed and a copy is attached to the file copy of these minutes at Appendix 'A'.

Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Simm

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8. FEDERATION SERVICES

8.i Centralised Banking

The Co-operation Act 1981 currently inhibits the Co-operative Federation from developing a Centralised Banking Service for members using the facilities of the Co-operative Federation of New South Wales Section 75 (3). The Registrar has been requested to amend Co-operative Societies Regulations 1982 Regulation 74 by listing the

Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. as a prescribed Federation

and by adding a new section to the Co-operation Act 1981 at 75 (11) authorising a Federation to invest surplus funds with the Co-operative Federation of Australia.

8.ii Bulk Fuel Purchases

Twelve Co-operatives have responded positively to the Federation's questionnaire and a meeting of representatives will be held on 19th July 1983.

A further five Co-operatives responded advising non involvement in the fuel business.

8.iii Bulk Insurance Policy

The Registrar originally expressed reservation about disclosing names and addresses of Community Advancement Co-operatives. After discussion with the Chairman the Federation's request will be reconsidered.

9. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The discussion paper considered by the Legislation Committee on receipt from the Co-operative Societies Advisory Council has now been issued as an official paper by the Minister dated 6/vi/83.

Mr. Rundle presented a detailed report on findings of the Legislation Committee after consideration of the paper. The Committee noted the recognition in the paper of the contribution by the Co-operative Federation. The Committee recommended Council seek more detailed information on the proposed new types of Co-operatives viz:

Rental Housing Co-operatives
Equity Housing Co-operatives

After discussion Council

endorsed the report from the Legislation Committee and agreed it be submitted to the Registrar as the Federation's response to the Ministerial discussion paper.

Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Long

Council expressed its appreciation to the Legislation Committee.

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REPORTS

10.i

Community Employment Co-operative Development Programme

The Executive Officer advised that a proposal paper for the establishment of a Co-operative Development Agency was prepared by the Business Adviser, agreed by the Executive Officer and submitted to the Ministry.

Copies of the paper were tabled.

Mr. Greer invited comment on the proposal paper from Council members.

The evaluation study of the Co-operative Development Programme undertaken by Cruikshank Management Resources Pty. Ltd. has been completed and its report has been received by the Steering Committee appointed by the Minister Employment and Training. The report has not yet been formally submitted to the Minister and has not been released.

Informal advice from Ministry officials indicates the report is critical of the services provided to the programme by the Departmental Administration and the two Advisory Units.

Mr. Greer questioned the criticism of the services of the Business Advisory Unit in the light of the very limited discussions the study team held with him.

Interim arrangements for a continued funding of the Federation's role in the programme had been made for a two month period to 31.8.83 pending the outcome of deliberations and action on recommendations from the report.

However, the Federation Chairman was advised verbally by the Deputy Director, Ministry Employment and Training, that further funding will be withheld from the Federation until the internal staff problem related to the Administrative Assistant has been resolved.

10.ii

Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 23rd June 1983.

10.iii

Co-operative Federation of Australia

The Council of this Federation met in Sydney on Thursday, 16th June 1983. Victoria was represented by Mr. Macintosh.

That meeting agreed

- (i) that the Secretariat of the Co-operative Federation of Australia be transferred from Victoria to Sydney, to be operated by the Co-operative Federation of New South Wales, with effect from 1.7.83;

- (ii) that office furniture and equipment, less two filing cabinets belonging to the Co-operative Federation of Australia, be sold at depreciated book value;
- (iii) that each member State Federation would contribute before 4th July 1983 the sum of \$2,000 towards the deficit in C.F.A. funds at the end of the financial year;
- (iv) the Budget for 1983/84 would provide for subscription income of \$12,000 including \$2,000 from the Co-operative Federation of Victoria. Expenditure would allow for
\$4,000 international affiliation fees to
International Co-operative Alliance
International Raiffeisen Union
Plunkett Foundation
\$5,000 for Secretarial fee
\$3,000 for administration costs
- (v) the Co-operative Bank Study Committee should revert to a sub-committee of the Co-operative Federation of Australia under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Warne, N.S.W., with membership to include Mr. Clive Little and representation from Victoria and Western Australia;
- (vi) to amend the logo by enclosing the CO-OP symbol in a circle with the words
"Advancing the Spirit of Co-operation"
surrounding the symbol;
- (vii) to election of the following office bearers -
President - Mr. R.J.T. Bourne New South Wales
Vice President - Mr. A. T. Poustie Western Australia
Executive Member - Mr. B. H. Macintosh Victoria
Secretary - Mr. B. W. Freeman
Nominee to:
Central Council I.C.A. Mr. B. W. Freeman
I.C.A. Regional Office Mr. A. T. Poustie
Advisory Council Mr. B. W. Freeman
- (viii) to request a winding up of the
International Co-operative Trading Organisation
- (ix) that the retirement date of Mr. Rawlinson from duties as Executive Officer, Co-operative Federation of Australia, be set as 15th July 1983.

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After consideration of this report Council resolved:

- (a) *That the Co-operative Federation of Victoria purchase the furniture and office equipment owned by the Co-operative Federation of Australia less two filing cabinets currently in the office of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria at a cost not to exceed \$1350.*

*Moved Mr. Simm
seconded Mr. Mitchell*

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- (b) *That the Co-operative Federation of Victoria pay \$2,000 forthwith to the Co-operative Federation of Australia as its contribution to the national Federation deficit*

*Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Long*

- (c) *That the Co-operative Federation of Victoria pay when due a first and final payment of \$2,000 as its affiliation fee and one and only commitment to funding the Co-operative Federation of Australia for the financial year, commencing 1st July 1983*

*Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Simm*

- (d) *That Mr. Slattery be invited to represent the Co-operative Federation of Victoria on the Co-operative Bank Study Committee.*

10. iv

Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported that he had participated in a community meeting in Kensington on Saturday, 11th June.

He had dealt with 120 enquiries arising from an article on Co-operation published in the 'Age' on 30/5/83.

He had discussions with Dr. Ross Gurnie adviser to Senator Susan Ryan, Federal Minister for Education and Youth Affairs on the subject of development of Youth Co-operatives on which a meeting is being organised in Canberra on 22/6/83.

He had provided assistance to Murray Goulburn Co-operative in relations with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies N.S.W. and that department's acceptance of Murray Goulburn being of a substantially co-operative character.

He has had two discussions with Ministry Employment and Training officials on the Evaluation Study Report.

He has been invited to prepare and present 5 papers to the International Co-operative Training Programme being organised in Sydney by the Co-operative Federation of New South Wales. This will require his absence from the State for the full week commencing 11th July 1983.

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Council authorised

*Mr. Rawlinson be given leave of absence from
duty and from the State for the week commencing
11th July 1983.*

11. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman, Mr. Black due for re-election as Director, Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. at the August 1983 Annual General Meeting gave notice that he will not seek re-nomination as Chairman of the Board or Council after that Annual General Meeting.

12. NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for Monday, 18th July 1983, commencing 4 p.m.

John Black. 18.7.83